

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1215560-1

Total Deleted Page(s) = 139

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Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 10/13/58

To

☒ Director  
Att. **FOREIGN LIAISON**

FILE # .....

☐ SAC .....

Title .....

☐ ASAC .....

☐ Supv. ....

☐ Agent .....

☐ SE .....

☐ CC .....

☐ Steno .....

☐ Clerk .....

**ACTION DESIRED**

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline .....

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Open Case

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials .....

to .....

☐ Submit new charge-out

☐ Submit report by .....

☐ Type

Embassy "Weeka" # 41 dated 10/8/58

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-16-99 BY 60267 NLS/BJE/BJE  
97099 60767 NLS/BJE/BJE

Legal Attache

☐ See reverse side

Office

Havana

Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 10-17-58

To

☒ Director

FILE #

Att. Foreign Liaison

☐ SAC

Title

☐ ASAC

POLITICAL MATTERS

☐ Supv.

CUBA

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline .....

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Open Case

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☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials .....

to

☐ Submit new charge-out

☐ Submit report by .....

☐ Type 109-12-210-

NOT RECORDED

Embassy Weeka No. 42, October 14 OCT 1958.1958

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-16-99

BY 60267 NLS/BCE/AR

40049

SAD, Legat.

Havana

Office

See reverse side

52 OCT 22 1958

52 OCT 22 1958

- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Donahoe
- 1 - Mr. Nasca

Legat, Havana

10-23-58

Director, FBI

**INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA**

POLITICAL MATTER  
CUBA

Reurlet 10-15-58, with enclosure. A review of the enclosure to relet reflects that it is a well-balanced presentation of present conditions in Cuba which is helpful to the Bureau.

It was noted in relet that such a summary would be prepared and submitted to the Bureau as of the 15th of each month. In the future, you should submit a synopsis with the memorandum, giving a brief and concise picture of the information contained therein. That synopsis should be limited to one page.

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (Route thru for review)

VHN:egs:jlf  
(8)

**NOTE:** Cover memo Donahoe to Belmont, re same subject, prepared 10-21-58, VHN:egs, set forth a summary of the info contained in the memo and in the recommendation, it was pointed out that the Legat, Havana, was being instructed to include a synopsis with the memorandum in the future.

109-12-Cuba

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-16-99 BY 60267 NLS/BUE/SES  
42049 60267 NLS/BUE/MLC

EX-101

REC-21

109-12-210-328

**LEGAT**  
9 - OCT 23  
COMM-FBI

OCT 24 1958

52 OCT 29 1958

MAIL ROOM

101 SS  
OCT 24 1958  
FBI  
RECEIVED

SP  
[Signature]

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. Belmont  
FROM : S. B. Donahoe

1 - Rosen  
1 - Belmont  
1 - Donahoe  
1 - Nasca

DATE: 10/21/58

SUBJECT: INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

*Political*

By letter dated 10/15/58, Legat, Havana, furnished an informative memorandum dealing with present conditions in Cuba. He noted the information was already known to Embassy officials, and in many instances his personal opinions were set forth based on data received by his office.

Concerning revolutionary activities, Legat, Havana, traced steady growth of the revolutionary forces from some 20 men who survived the landing of Fidel Castro in Cuba in December, 1956, to an armed force of some 5,000 men which almost completely denominates Oriente Province and disrupts the orderly process of government in other provinces.

President Batista has been firm in stating presidential and congressional elections will be held as scheduled 11/3/58. The average person is unhesitating in stating the elections will be fraudulent and Batista-backed candidates will win. Except for a six-week period, constitutional guarantees have been continually suspended since 8/1/57 and there is no indication suspension will be lifted for elections. The Government has announced that if opposition parties desire, observers from the United Nations or Organization of American States witness the forthcoming elections, it would agree to such measures. There is no indication, however, that this will materialize.

In the last week of September and first week of October, there was a recurrence of terrorist bombings in Havana. The police have been ruthless in countermeasures which may account for their cessation. Some report cessation due to fear by rebels that bombings endanger lives of innocent people and cause public sympathy to turn against rebel cause.

Batista Government officials are vehement in statements that rebel forces are communist infiltrated. Although Cuban Communist Party backed rebel attempts to overthrow Cuban Government, there is no definite proof that communists have succeeded in gaining foothold in leadership of rebel movement.

The attitude of the average individual in Cuba is one of tense waiting for a period of violent upheaval which all are sure will undoubtedly come to pass. There is constant private talk that things will only be rectified in Cuba with the violent overthrow of Batista forces and

VHN:egs  
(5)

~~SECRET~~

Let to AAG  
cc Deputy  
AAG  
m.w. 10/22/58

EX-135 REC-61

109-12-210-329

20 OCT 29 1958

109-12-210

~~SECRET~~

Memo Donahoe to Belmont  
Re: Intelligence Survey - Cuba

a blood bath of those in Government who have committed atrocities against the people. Persons who have sound knowledge of Cuban politics seem to believe that only a military junta of Cuban officers who have not engaged in atrocities would solve Cuba's present problems.

Several top hoodlums maintain their residences in Havana and have interests in or employed by various gambling casinos in Havana. Many other top hoodlums make frequent visits to Havana to contact American gambling associates and to protect interests they have there. Although the tourist season is presently at its lowest ebb, it is estimated there are about 200 to 250 Americans employed in gambling operations in Havana. This number will increase to about 350 if the political situation and weather allows for favorable winter tourist season.

Police protection for top hoodlums and gamblers is practically assured. Batista's brother-in-law who is reported to receive 50% of the take from all slot machines, provides police protection for the casinos. In addition, a three-way package payoff is made by all gambling operations to the Head of the Department of Investigations; the Chief of the National Police; and the wife of President Batista. In addition, numerous minor police officials have their own privately arranged payoffs. Sources have indicated that President Batista has an interest in a gambling casino and that the Cuban Ambassador to the U.S. also has an interest in a gambling casino.

Commercialized prostitution has always been rampant in Havana, and only rarely is an effort made by Cuban police authorities to make any arrests. The presence in Havana from time to time of well-known jewel thieves tends to confirm allegations that Havana is becoming a dumping ground for stolen jewelry. Other U.S. Government agencies have indicated a growing concern over the amount of narcotics activity in Cuba. They allege that Havana has become the narcotics distribution center of the Western Hemisphere.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is for your information. Inasmuch as Legat, Havana, has indicated that a similar memorandum will be submitted on the 15th of each month, he is being instructed to include a synopsis with this memorandum in the future.

mmj

mmj

A

K

Suggest memo  
to as twaash

~~SECRET~~

10721  
mjs  
K



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - Nasca  
1 - Belmont  
1 - Rosen

The Attorney General

October 22, 1958

REC- 61

Director, FBI

EX-135 INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

6067 NLS/BCE/4889  
DECLASSIFIED BY 6067 NLS/BCE/585  
CN 3-17-91

Our representative in Havana, Cuba, in a communication dated October 15, 1958, furnished the following data concerning present conditions in Cuba:

Our representative called attention to the steady growth of the revolutionary forces from some 20 men who survived the landing of Fidel Castro in Cuba in December, 1956, to an armed force of some 5,000 men which almost completely dominates Oriente Province and disrupts the orderly process of government in other provinces.

President Batista has been firm in stating the presidential and congressional elections will be held as scheduled on November 3, 1958. The average person is unhesitating in stating the elections will be fraudulent and the Batista-backed candidates will win. Except for a six-week period, constitutional guarantees have been continually suspended since August 1, 1957, and there is no indication the suspension will be lifted for the elections. The Government has announced that if the opposition parties desire observers from the United Nations or Organization of American States to witness the forthcoming elections, it would agree to such measures. There is no indication, however, that this will materialize.

In the last week of September and the first week of October, there was a recurrence of terrorist bombings in Havana. The police have been ruthless in countermeasures which may account for their cessation. Some report the cessation is due to fear by the rebels that the bombings endanger the lives of innocent people and cause public sympathy to turn against the rebel cause.

Batista Government officials are vehement in statements that the rebel forces are communist infiltrated. Although the Cuban Communist Party backs the rebel attempts to overthrow the Cuban Government, there is no definite proof that communists have succeeded in gaining a foothold in the leadership of the rebel movement.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Clayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan

VHN:mcc (7) 67 OCT 29 1958 (NOTE PAGE TWO)

67 OCT 29 1958  
MAIL ROOM  
FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

109-12-210

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Attorney General

The attitude of the average individual in Cuba is one of tense waiting for a period of violent upheaval which all are sure will undoubtedly come to pass. There is constant private talk that things will only be rectified in Cuba with the violent overthrow of the Batista forces and a blood bath of those in the Government who have committed atrocities against the people. Persons who have a sound knowledge of Cuban politics seem to believe that only a military junta of Cuban officers who have not engaged in atrocities would solve Cuba's present problems.

Several notorious hoodlums maintain their residence in Havana and have interests in or are employed by various gambling casinos in Havana. Many other notorious hoodlums make frequent visits to Havana to contact American gambling associates and to protect interests they have there. Although the tourist season is presently at its lowest ebb, it is estimated there are about 200 Americans employed in gambling operations in Havana. This number will increase to about 350 if the political situation and weather allow for a favorable winter tourist season.

Police protection for notorious hoodlums and gamblers is practically assured. Batista's brother-in-law who is reported to receive 50 per cent of the take from all slot machines, provides police protection for the casinos. In addition, a three-way package payoff is made by all gambling operations to the Head of the Department of Investigations; the Chief of the National Police; and the wife of President Batista. In addition, numerous minor police officials have their own privately arranged payoffs. Sources have indicated that President Batista has an interest in a gambling casino and that the Cuban Ambassador to the United States also has an interest in a gambling casino.

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The above is for your information.

1 - Mr. Lawrence E. Walsh NOTE: Classified "~~Confidential~~" since i  
Deputy Attorney General contains info received from confiden  
sources of Havana Office, the unauth  
ized disclosure of which would be  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ prejudicial to our coverage

Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 10/28/58

To

☒ Director

FILE # .....

Att. FOREIGN LIAISON

☐ SAC ..... Title .....

☐ ASAC .....

☐ Supv. ....

☐ Agent .....

☐ SE .....

☐ CC .....

☐ Steno .....

☐ Clerk .....

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline .....

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Open Case

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials .....

to .....

☐ Submit new charge-out

☐ Submit report by .....

☐ Type

EMBASSY "WEEKA" # 43

109-12-210-  
NOT RECORDED

16 OCT 29 1958

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-16-99 BY 60267NLS/BCE/OK

9-20-99

ENCLOSURE

EXX

JAMES T. HARTLEY  
LEGAL ATTACHE

Office HAVANA

☐ See reverse side

68 OCT 30 1958


 DECODED COPY

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Airgram

☒ Cablegram

DECODE OF CODED CABLE NUMBER 547 DATED NOVEMBER 3, 1958 AT  
 HAVANA, CUBA. RECEIVED VIA THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

URGENT

*Political matters - Cuba*

CUBAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. NATIONAL ELECTIONS HELD TODAY.  
 ALL BUSINESSES CLOSED AND CITY VERY QUIET. OBSERVATION  
 REFLECTS VERY LITTLE ACTIVITY AT POLLING BOOTHS WHICH ARE  
 HEAVILY GUARDED.

JAMES T. HAVERTY

RECEIVED: 11-3-58 4:50 PM HL

18

REC-93

REC-93

109-12-210-335

11 NOV 5 1958

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3-17-99 BY 60267ULS/DCE/ST

47749 60267NLS/DCE/ST

cc: Mr Belmont  
 cc: Mr Fereni  
 CTE

63 NOV 10 1958

109-12-210

Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date **10/30/58**

To

☒ Director

FILE #

Att. **FOREIGN LIAISON**

Title

*Political matters - Cuba*

☐ SAC

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-17-99 BY 60267 JUS/BCE/SE

**ACTION DESIRED**

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline .....

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Open Case

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials .....

to

☐ Submit new charge-out

☐ Submit report by

☐ Type

EMBASSY WEEKA # **44 10/28/58**

*109-12-210*

NOT RECORDED

NOV 7 1958

**XXEX**

**LEGAT**

Office **HAVANA**

**ENCLOSURE**

See reverse side *137*

**60 NOV 12 1958**

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: November 7, 1958

FROM : Legat, Havana (109-12) ~~SECRET~~  
 SUBJECT: CUBAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES  
 FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTER - CUBA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
 OTHERWISE

Enclosed are seven copies of a letterhead memorandum reporting information which was furnished by [redacted]

[redacted], on November 7, 1958. [redacted] identity was concealed by a T symbol but the source has not been evaluated in a separate memorandum as he was identified in the body of the letterhead memorandum as a ~~confidential~~ source abroad.

Careful consideration has been given to the T symbol used in this memorandum and it was utilized only because the source must be concealed.

The Bureau's attention is called to Havana letter entitled "I. [redacted] FOREIGN MISCELLANEOUS," dated February 21, 1958, advising that [redacted] had requested background information on [redacted]. The Bureau replied to this letter in letters dated March 6, and March 13, 1958 (Bufile 2-1423) advising that Bureau files contained no pertinent information on [redacted].

[redacted] at the time of contact on November 7, 1958, advised he would appreciate any information we could furnish concerning the background of [redacted] who is referred to in the enclosed memorandum.

DECLASSIFIED BY 5666 SLD/KSR  
 ON 2-3-98 (JFK)

Two extra copies of this letter and the enclosed memorandum are submitted to the Bureau for forwarding to the New York office. It is requested, subject to Bureau approval, that the New York office furnish any available information on [redacted] in form suitable for dissemination to [redacted] as a matter of cooperation with him. It is suggested that the Bureau make inquiry to determine if [redacted] has made appropriate registration as a foreign agent.

Information contained in the enclosed memorandum has been disseminated to the following offices in the U. S. Embassy: The Ambassador, Counselor of Embassy, [redacted] Army, Naval and Air Attaches, and the U. S. Treasury representative.

The enclosed memorandum has been classified confidential in order to protect identity of source.

Enclosures - 7

4 - Bureau

1 - Havana

JJW:MEG

(5)

AGENCY  
 REQ. REC'D  
 DATE FORW.  
 HOW FORW.  
 BY

IN THIS DOCUMENT

Jm 9-15-97  
 SLD/KSR 1-20-98 (JFK)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reply, Please Refer to  
e No. [ ]

HAS NO OBJECTION TO  
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR,  
RELEASE OF INFORMATION  
IN THIS DOCUMENT:

Jm 9-15-97

SLD/KSR

1-20-98 (JFK)

Re: CUBAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

~~SECRET~~

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 7, 1958

b7E

T-1, a confidential source abroad, advised on November 7, 1958, that the Cuban Government has recently given a \$260,000 letter credit to [ ] a public relations counsel with offices in the Wyatt Building, Suite 1224, Washington, D. C., for the purchase of arms for the Cuban Government. This source said that last week the Cuban Government (exact agency or official not known) received a request from [ ] that this letter of credit be transferred to [ ] who is a representative of the Government of Israel, with offices at 250 West 57th Street, New York 19, New York. [ ] was referred to as belonging to the [ ] Government of Israel. Source said that under this arrangement [the Government of Israel] is to ship arms valued at \$30,000 directly to Cuba. These arms were not described. (S) (u)

b6  
b7C  
b7D

T-1 had previously advised that in February, 1958, the Cuban Government was considering the advisability of hiring [ ] as a public relations consultant for the Cuban Government.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

DECLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLD/KSR  
ON 2-3-98 (JFK)

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE~~

~~Classified by SP8 mab/KSR  
Declassify on: OADR (JFK)~~  
11-5-94

~~SECRET~~

cc- State, [ ] locally to your  
agency in [ ]

11/19/58  
RJB  
HRT/jan

ENCLOSURE

107

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana

SUBJECT: INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

**SECRET**

DATE: October 13, 1958

57555

INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

Submitted herewith are an original and six copies of a memorandum captioned as above. It is believed that such memorandum might be of interest to Bureau officials in order to acquaint them with conditions in Cuba at the present time. UACB this office will prepare similar memorandum which will be submitted to the Bureau on the 15th of each month.

All information contained in this memorandum is already known to appropriate Embassy officials, [redacted] It is to be noted that in many instances the personal opinions of the writer have been set forth, based on information received from sources of this office.

No dissemination of the memorandum as such has been made locally. It is classified "**Confidential**" inasmuch as it reflects information obtained from confidential sources of this office in Cuba.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 7)  
1 - Havana  
JTH:lg  
(3)

317-19 60267MS/BCE/KS  
REG. 68 109-12-210-351

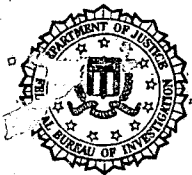
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

58588

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Declassified by 60267 NLS/BCE/SJ 92089  
ON 3-17-99

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 15, 1958

INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

A. POLITICAL MATTERS

1. REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

FIDEL CASTRO RUZ made his memorable landing in the Province of Oriente, Cuba, on December 2, 1956. CASTRO and his small group immediately took to the hills where his band of approximately 20 men was free from pursuit by Cuban armed forces because of the mountainous terrain. Since that time the forces of CASTRO and other revolutionary groups have grown to such strength that they almost completely dominate Oriente Province and have, through harrassment tactics, been able to disrupt the orderly processes of the Government in the Provinces of Camaguey, Las Villas, and Pinar del Rio, which provinces comprise more than half the territory of Cuba.

These revolutionary groups do not actually constitute cohesive forces but rather are roaming bands of guerrilla fighters. The Cuban Army has never taken any full-scale action against the rebels. This has been due to the fact that the rebels have always kept their forces in a highly fluid state. There is also a moot question as to whether the loyalty to the Government of the average Cuban soldier is such that he would actively engage in serious combat with his fellow Cuban.

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During the past two months there has been a definite increase in rebel activity. The rebels have become much bolder in their movements, and it is now estimated that their number comprises 5,000 armed men. In the Provinces of Oriente and Camaguey communications have been almost completely disrupted. Because of the disruptive tactics of rebel raids, insurance rates on internal shipments within Cuba have risen as much as 800 per cent in the past year.

The strength of the rebel forces and their domination of affairs in certain Cuban provinces are evidenced by the fact that within the past few weeks the rebels have issued an edict imposing a tax on all sugar, coffee, and cattle in the Provinces of Oriente and Camaguey. Even though President BATISTA has stated that any concern paying such taxes to the rebels would be immediately subject to double taxation by the Cuban Government, numerous sources have advised that most of the companies engaged in business in these provinces will definitely pay the taxes imposed by the rebels.

## 2. FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

Presidential elections are scheduled to be held in Cuba on November 3, 1958, at which time Representatives and Senators also will be elected. President BATISTA has been firm in his statements that these elections will be held as scheduled.

The Government party has as its Presidential candidate ANDRES RIVERO AGUERO who is considered by many to be merely a figure-head for BATISTA. CARLOS MARQUEZ STERLING has been chosen by

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the Partido del Pueblo Libre as its Presidential candidate. Dr.

Cuba RAMON GRAU SAN MARTIN, ex-President of Cuba, has been selected  
to head the slate of the Autentico Party.

Not only has BATISTA claimed that the elections will be held as scheduled, but he has made the further statement that 60 per cent of the registered voters will cast their ballots in these elections. In connection with this statement, it is to be noted that voting is legally compulsory in Cuba. The average person, however, is unhesitating in expressing his opinion that these elections will be fraudulent and that the Batista-backed candidates will triumph.

From various sources it has been learned that one of the Presidential candidates, namely MARQUEZ STERLING, has been receiving funds from the Government in order to carry on his election campaign. The reason for such subsidy by the Government to MARQUEZ STERLING may be to insure the fact that there will be an opposition candidate to the Government-backed Presidential nominee, namely RIVERO AGUERO. In this connection, GRAU SAN MARTIN, the other opposition candidate, is seriously ill and from past actions has indicated he might withdraw from elections at the last moment.

Except for a six-week period constitutional guarantees have been continuously suspended in Cuba since August 1, 1957. There is no indication that the Government will lift its

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suspension of constitutional guarantees for the elections on November 3. Among these guarantees are freedom of expression, right of assembly, and freedom of movement, all of which are necessary for uninhibited political campaigning. Although in the City of Havana there are thousands of political posters announcing the identity of those seeking election for the Presidency and for other political posts, there is very little active political campaigning by the various candidates because of the suspension of constitutional guarantees.

The Government has announced that if the opposition parties desired that impartial observers either from the United Nations or from the Organization of American States witness the forthcoming Presidential elections, it would agree to such measures. GRAU SAN MARTIN has stated that he would like UN observers but has indicated that he would want approximately 15,000 persons to supervise or police the elections. To date no active steps have been taken to invite any outside observers and it is doubtful whether any will appear on the local scene at election time.

The July 26 Movement, headed by FIDEL CASTRO, has announced that it would consider anyone participating in the November 3 elections as traitors to Cuba. It has been reported that three individuals who had announced their candidacy for Representative have been assassinated by rebel groups.

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Inasmuch as the Government is not in control of all sections of Cuban soil, voting precincts have been established only in those places under complete control of Government forces. This will definitely cut down on the number of those voting in the outlying provinces. In the City of Havana at the present time the voting precincts, where individuals are able to secure their voting credentials, are protected by heavily armed troops and police.

### 3. TERRORISTIC ACTIVITIES

During the last week in September and the first week in October there was a recurrence of bombings in the City of Havana. These bombings usually occurred between 9:00 P.M. and 12 Midnight in the old section of the city. The police have been ruthless in the counter-measures which they have taken. Usually at the scene of such bombings on the following day would be found the bodies of various individuals who had been riddled by machine gun bullets. They were left there by the police, evidently as a warning to those who had any ideas of continuing terroristic activities. It was reliably reported that on the occasion of a bombing of an aqueduct in Havana city, the Chief of Police gave immediate orders to kill the four policemen who were charged with protecting this property. In the two-week period from September 23 - October 7 it is estimated that the police killed approximately 50 individuals in Havana because of these bombing attempts.

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During the past week there have been no known bombings in Havana proper. This may be due to the fact that counter-measures taken by the police have proven to be effective. Some report, however, that cessation of bombings was brought about due to the fear on the part of the rebels that such bombings endanger the lives of innocent people and cause public sympathy to turn against the rebel cause.

#### 4. COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES

BATISTA Government officials in their discussions concerning the situation in Cuba are vehement in their statements that the rebel forces are communist-infiltrated. Although the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP, Cuban Communist Party) publicly and privately backs rebel attempts to overthrow the existing Government of Cuba, there has been no definite proof that the Communists have succeeded in gaining a foothold in the leadership of the rebel movement.

The rebel leader who is most often pointed out to be a Communist or Communist sympathizer is ~~RAUL CASTRO~~, brother of FIDEL CASTRO, July 26 Movement leader. RAUL CASTRO did attend a Communist-sponsored Congress in Europe some years ago and was the one who perpetrated the recent kidnappings of Americans. Also connected with FIDEL CASTRO is ~~ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA~~, an Argentinian who is definitely anti-American and reportedly pro-Communist.

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The Communists have joined in statements of the July 26 Movement that the forthcoming elections should be boycotted inasmuch as they would be fraudulent.

Although the Batista Government has a well-organized agency for the investigation of communism, namely the Buro para Represion de Actividades Comunistas (BRAC), this organization has not gained the support of all anti-communist elements inasmuch as it is too closely tied in with the Government and is considered by some anti-Communists who are not pro-Batista as merely another arm of Batista's repressive forces.

#### 5. ATMOSPHERE IN THE COUNTRY

The attitude of the average individual in Cuba is one of tense waiting for a period of violent upheaval which all are sure will ultimately come to pass. There is constant private talk that things will only be rectified in Cuba with the violent overthrow of the Batista forces and a "blood bath" of those in the Government who have committed atrocities against the people. That atrocities have been committed, there is no denying. Not all Government agents have participated in atrocities against the people. There is, however, a definite feeling of hatred on the part of most of the people toward the Chief of the National Police and some of his subordinate members, as well as toward

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some members of the Cuban Army Military Intelligence Service (SIM). This office has received information from some minor police officials that they themselves fear for their lives, even though they have in no way taken part in any atrocities against the Cuban people.

It has been learned that some of the higher officials of the Government at the present time show indications of being "nervous" concerning the situation. They have sent their families out of Cuba to the United States, reportedly on "shopping tours."

In visiting police and military offices in Havana one receives a definite impression that fear pervades the atmosphere. At the entrance a visitor is greeted by a policeman with a tommy-gun in a ready position. Police cars throughout the city are manned by three officers, one of whom is seated in the rear with a rear-view mirror in front of him and a tommy-gun on his lap. Most official cars are equipped with a rear-view mirror in front of the rear seat so that individuals seated therein might observe any surveillance of them.

Government police officials rarely make any public appearances and, even when invited to private functions, are careful that their whereabouts will not be publicly known. At the present time normal police functions are being severely curtailed. Most of the police are being used to guard police property, to protect the person and residences of high police officials, and to conduct political investigations.



6. ATTITUDE OF PEOPLE

All Cubans seem to be in agreement that the election of RIVERO AGUERO will not solve the problems at present confronting Cuba. They feel that he is a weak individual who, without the backing of the Army, would fall from leadership in a short period. BATISTA has stated he has no intention of leaving Cuba after the elections. The average person also believes that the rise to power of FIDEL CASTRO would not be an answer to Cuba's problems. Some feel that he is an idealist without any political sense. Persons who have a sound knowledge of Cuba's political scene seem to believe that only a military junta of Cuban officers who have not engaged in atrocities against the people would solve Cuba's present problems.

The feeling of the average Cuban toward Americans is one of friendliness; however, United States policies with respect to the internal conflict in Cuba come under attack from both Government and rebel forces, the Government claiming that the United States in suspending arms shipments to Cuba is, in fact, aiding the rebels. The rebels in turn decry the fact that the United States continues to have military missions in Cuba.

Economically the country is financially sound. The average Cuban enjoys perhaps one of the highest standards of living in Latin America. Business conditions, however, have deteriorated within the past few months.

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B. CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES1. TOP HOODLUMS

The following top hoodlums maintain residences in Havana:

U.S.A. ~~WILLIAM GUSTO BISCHOFF~~, was., FBI # 1721507;

U.S.A. ~~JOSEPH SILESI~~, wa.;

U.S.A. ~~CHARLES TOURINE~~, was., FBI # 695716;

F.I.D. T.H. ~~SANTOS TRAFFICANTE~~, was., FBI # 482531 B (Miami TH);

~~MEYER LANSKY~~, was., FBI # 791783 (New York TH);

~~JACK LANSKY~~, was. (Miami TH). F.I.D.

All these individuals have interests and/or are employed in various gambling casinos in Havana. Many other top hoodlums make frequent visits to Havana to contact American gambling associates and to protect interests they have in casinos here. Recently JORGE CORREA LE FRANC, FBI # 165597-A (San Juan TH), died of a heart attack in Havana about three weeks after he allegedly received a beating from Cuban police for failure to make payoffs in connection with an illegal bolita game which he operated.

2. GAMBLING

Although the tourist season is now at its lowest ebb, it is estimated that there are about 200 Americans employed in gambling operations in Havana. This number will increase to about 350 if the political situation and weather allow for a favorable winter tourist season. Americans have interests in or are

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employed by ten gambling casinos in greater Havana, and it appears probable that at least two more casinos in which American money will be invested will open up in time for the winter tourist trade. A recent change in ownership of the gambling casino in the Hotel Nacional has brought ~~CHARLES SCHWARTZ~~ <sup>Cuba</sup> to Havana as <sup>Havana Cuba</sup> ~~manager~~ of that casino. SCHWARTZ previously had an illegal gambling operation in Atlantic City, New Jersey, which was raided this past summer by State Police. This raid was reportedly made on orders of Governor MEYNER in order to enhance MEYNER's political chances for the Presidency.

### 3. TAKE

At present the take of the various casinos is variable. Some casinos are barely breaking even while others, particularly those using prostitutes as "shills", are making big money. Most casino operators are looking to the future since they believe that with each succeeding year the attraction of gambling will make substantial inroads into the Florida tourist business. There is no doubt that the potential is tremendous. As an example, early this year, when the Hotel Havana Riviera was filled to capacity, the take at the Riviera gambling casino was estimated at one-half million dollars a month.

### 4. POLICE TIE-UPS WITH ORGANIZED CRIME

Police tie-ups with gambling are closely related to politics since all high level police positions are little more than pure political appointments without regard for prior police service or experience.

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Police protection for top hoodlums and gamblers is practically assured. ~~ROBERTO FERNANDEZ MIRANDA~~<sup>Cuba</sup>, the brother-in-law of President BATISTA, who is reported to receive 50 per cent of the take from all slot machines in operation, provides police protection for the casinos.

In addition, a three-way package payoff is made by all gambling operations, large and small, Cuban and American, to Colonel ~~ORLANDO PIEDRA NEGURUELA~~, Head of the Department of Investigations; ~~PILAR GARCIA GARCIA~~, Chief of the National Police; and to ~~MARTA FERNANDEZ~~, the wife of President BATISTA. In addition, numerous minor police officials have their own privately arranged payoffs.

Sources have indicated that President BATISTA has an interest in the Havana Riviera gambling casino and that NICHOLAS ARROYO, Cuban Ambassador to the United States, has an interest in the gambling casino in the Havana Hilton Hotel. Therefore, it is important to Cuban police and political officials that gambling be successful in Cuba.

##### 5. OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Commercialized prostitution has always been rampant in Havana, and only rarely is an effort made by Cuban police authorities to make any arrests. Even these arrests are usually prompted by failure on the part of the parties involved to make their

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INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

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payoffs. Allegations have been received that procurers may attempt to ship Cuban prostitutes to the United States as artists and entertainers to work in the Latin American population centers such as Chicago, New York, Miami, and New Orleans.

The presence from time to time in Havana of well-known jewel thieves tends to confirm allegations that Havana is becoming a dumping ground for stolen jewelry. However, since about 95 per cent of all jewelry enters Cuba illegally to avoid payment of high import duties, identification of stolen jewelry and fences has proven to be extremely difficult.

Other U. S. Government agencies have indicated a growing concern over the amount of narcotics activity in Cuba. They allege that Havana has become the narcotics distribution center of the Western Hemisphere, and this tends to be borne out by the presence in Cuba of individuals who are known representatives of European producers and American buyers, such as PAU DAMIER MANDOLONI and LUCIEN BLVARD.

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana (66-101)

SUBJECT: INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

Political Matters - Cuba

Submitted herewith are an original and six copies of a memorandum captioned as above.

All information contained in this memorandum is already known to appropriate Embassy officials. It is to be noted that in many instances the personal opinions of the writer have been set forth, based on information received from sources of this office. (S)(u)

No dissemination of the memorandum as such has been made locally. It is classified "Confidential" inasmuch as it reflects information obtained from confidential sources of this office in Cuba. (S)(u)

2 - Bureau (Enc. 7)  
1 - Havana  
JTH/DJB:lg  
(3)

copies made
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OTHERWISE

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67 DEC 10 1958

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT SENT TO  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES (JFKARCA)  
DATE 8/10/94

JFK Subject: Dennis J. McWilliams

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Sullivan  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

58589

DATE: November

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Re: for review at FBIHQ
WCCA re request
(See Bufile #02-117290)

109-112-1210-355  
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United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

November 14, 1958

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INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

SYNOPSIS

#211,326  
Classified by SP8 BTB/GCL  
Declassify on: OADR 7/2/84

Government candidates appear to have triumphed overwhelmingly in National elections held November 3, 1958. Vote very light, and elections reported fraudulent. Political scene not changed by election results as these elections boycotted by rebel groups.

Rebels on October 20, 1958, kidnaped two American employees of Texas Oil Company but released them unharmed after two days. On October 23, 1958, American employees of U. S. Government-owned Nicaro plant in Oriente Province were evacuated by U. S. Navy after rebels took over mine property. (X)(u)

Rebels have intensified campaign against Cuban airline "Cubana"; they have commandeered in flight three of its passenger planes, one being on flight from Miami to Varadero Beach, Cuba, with sixteen passengers and crew of four. There were thirteen known dead, including American woman and her three children, when this plane crashed in Oriente Province, rebel-held territory. (X)(u)

Cuban Army elements reported loyal to President BATISTA but disgusted with lack of leadership and with graft on part of commanding officers. (X)(u)

Economic situation rapidly disintegrating in Oriente and Camaguey Provinces. Rebels continue taxing concerns doing business in rebel-dominated territory. (X)(u)

Six top hoodlums from United States maintain residences in Havana where have interests in gambling casinos. These casinos doing poor business because of lack of tourism. Political officials tremendously graft-hungry, and, consequently, no forceful measures taken against traffickers in narcotics, stolen property, and prostitutes. American hoodlums not concerned in regard to possible political change as they feel Cuban politician will always be susceptible to bribery. (X)(u)

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8 MAC/GAT  
ON 8/8/94 (JEK)

109-12-210-  
ENCLOSURE



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

November 14, 1958

INTELLIGENCE SURVEY - CUBA

A. POLITICAL MATTERS

1. ELECTIONS

True to President BATISTA's word, elections were held as scheduled on November 3, 1958, and Government-supported candidates appear to have emerged triumphant. No major disturbances took place in the Republic on election day, and the City of Havana was abnormally quiet but very heavily patrolled by police and Army forces. [From observation and contact with sources, this office learned the vote appeared to be very light, and the Government reportedly reverted to fraudulent practices in order to insure victory for its candidates.] (X)(u)

Although as yet all the votes have not been counted, ANDRES RIVERO AGUERO appears to be the winning Presidential candidate, the claim being made that he has received over three times as many votes as those received by opposition candidates combined. Government-backed candidates also were overwhelming victors in contests for Senate and Representative seats, as well as in local elections.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~2. ATTITUDE OF PEOPLE TOWARD ELECTIONS

The attitude of the average Cuban is that the holding of the "so-called free elections" has solved nothing with respect to political conditions. The average Cuban feels that the election of RIVERO AGUERO merely means a continuance of BATISTA as a "strong man" on the Cuban political scene and that the policies of the present Government will continue when and if RIVERO AGUERO takes office.

One indication of the Cubans' reactions to the election was that portrayed by one of Havana's leading newspapers, "Prensa Libre", which failed to publish a single line concerning the results of the Cuban elections but did devote much space in its newspaper to the elections held in the United States.

Revolutionary elements can be expected to continue with their attempts to overthrow the Government as they have alleged all along that the elections would be fraudulent and had urged the people to boycott them.

3. REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES

On October 20, 1958, two American employees of the Texas Oil Company plant near Santiago de Cuba were kidnaped by a rebel band. After being held for two days, they were released unharmed. The company reportedly has been requested by the rebels to donate \$300,000 in arms or \$500,000 in cash to the rebel cause. There is no indication that the Texas Company has paid this sum. (X)(u)

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Rebel forces moved into the U. S. Government-owned Nicaraguan nickel mine on October 19, 1958. The plant employs approximately 3,000 persons and is owned by the General Services Administration but operated by the International Nickel Company. On October 23, 1958, 59 Americans were able to leave the plant on board a U. S. Navy ship. Their departure from the plant premises was delayed by reported mines in the Bay and a battle at the plant property between rebel and Government forces. At the present time the Cuban Army forces are protecting the plant property but operations of the company have not been resumed. (X)(u)

On October 20, 1958, three individuals commandeered a private plane at Central (sugar refinery) Miranda in Oriente Province and flew off with the plane and its pilot. Two days later three individuals, known Cuban revolutionaries, were apprehended by U. S. Border Patrol guards when this plane landed near Miami, Florida. (X)(u)

A Cubana de Aviacion passenger plane on a local flight in Oriente Province disappeared on October 21, 1958, and was announced to be in rebel hands. (X)(u)

The most shocking rebel commandeering of a plane took place on November 1, 1958, when Cuban rebels commandeered the Cubana de Aviacion Viscount flight en route from Miami, Florida, to Varadero Beach, Cuba. The plane, which was commandeered by four or five persons, some in rebel uniforms, crashed when attempting to land in the sea near Preston, Oriente Province, rebel-held territory. The plane had a passenger list of sixteen (X)(u)

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and a crew of four. There were three known survivors and possibly four others who might have escaped and presently be in rebel-held territory. One American survivor lost his wife and three children, all of them Americans, in this crash. Rebel sympathizers immediately started the rumor that the plane crashed when fired upon by Cuban authorities. Eye witnesses to the crash failed to confirm this and definitely confirmed that the plane had been commandeered by rebel sympathizers and crashed when attempting to land at Preston, an unscheduled stop. The crash of the Viscount caused the rebel movement the loss of much public support. Numerous persons not sympathetic to BATISTA deplored the calloused disregard for the lives of individuals endangered by such a fool-hardy and immature action on the part of rebel sympathizers. (X)(u)

Die-hard rebels, however, continued their actions against Cubana de Aviacion. On November 5, 1958, another Cubana de Aviacion plane on a flight in Oriente Province disappeared, and the rebel radio announced the plane was in rebel hands. Twenty-five passengers were aboard this flight, two of whom were reportedly Americans. (X)(u)

On November 11, 1958, passengers from the Cubana planes which were taken by the rebels on October 21 and November 5, 1958, were released and began to appear in Havana. Included among those released was the steward of the plane taken on November 5, (X)(u)

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1958, who is the son of General EULOGIO CANTILLO, <sup>Cuba</sup> Commanding Officer of the Cuban Government forces in Oriente Province. Also released was the pilot of this plane, ARMANDO PIEDRA, who, approximately a year and one-half ago when piloting a Cubana flight, was forced by rebel sympathizers to land his plane in <sup>Cuba</sup> Yucatan, Mexico. (X)(u)

#### 4. ATTITUDE OF ARMY

The Military Attache assigned to the U. S. Embassy in Havana advised that although the average low-ranking Cuban soldier has great respect for General BATISTA, the President, this soldier does not appear to feel the same sympathy toward Army leaders directing him in the field. Many of these high-ranking officers who are presently leading the Cuban armed forces are not noteworthy for their military acumen, and it is generally known that they are more interested in the graft they are able to secure than in winning battles or skirmishes against rebel forces.

The Province of Oriente is almost completely in rebel hands. The City of Santiago, second largest city in Cuba, which is located in this Province, has been completely cut off by land by the rebel forces. There is a definite shortage of foodstuffs in the city, and prices for all items have skyrocketed. (X)(u)

The Army in Santiago, as well as elsewhere, has been content to remain in its barracks and refuses to engage rebel columns in any major military maneuver. (X)(u)

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The Province of Camaguey, which adjoins Oriente, has had its transportation and communication lines almost completely disrupted by rebel action. The rebels also are active in the Province of Las Villas. (X)(u)

The City of Havana has been very quiet. Military and police barracks continue to be heavily guarded, and it is not believed that in their present state of defensive preparations that any rebel attacks would be made against them.

5. ECONOMIC SITUATION

The rebels continue their taxing of firms doing business in territory over which they have absolute control and even where their control could be merely of an harrassment nature. (X)(u)

This office has received several reports where prominent firms and banks doing business in Havana City itself have been approached by individuals claiming to represent the rebel cause for donations to the revolutionary movement. From a very reliable source it was learned that a very prominent Cuban resident of Havana was one who was making these collections for the rebel movement. It appears that although Cuban police forces have been ruthless in their handling of the ordinary low rebel sympathizer, they are very cautious in their treatment of anyone who, they feel, is considered to be a prominent individual. (X)(u)

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Businessmen report a definite falling-off in sales, especially in Camaguey and Oriente Provinces; however, even in the Province of Havana, business conditions are not considered to be good. There is great fear that the Cuban sugar crop for the coming year will be cut drastically because of rebel activities. This crop accounts for almost 90 per cent of Cuba's dollar income. Insurance companies are raising their rates almost weekly on all types of insurable goods. (X)(u)

6. IMMEDIATE OUTLOOK

The attitude of the educated Cuban is one of a "plague on both your houses." They dislike BATISTA because of his dictatorial methods and ~~FIDEL~~ CASTRO because they consider him to be a young upstart with an immature political philosophy. <sup>Cuba</sup> Some have voiced the opinion that the solution may be an Army coup perpetrated by responsible non-political officers who would have the backing of the public. There is still the fear, however, that because of the atrocities committed by some of the present Cuban officials, there will be a blood bath of these officials if a real, strong Army-backed group does not take immediate control if BATISTA resigns from his post.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~B. CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES1. TOP HOODLUMS

In the Intelligence Survey submitted October 15, 1958, it was noted that six top hoodlums maintain residences in Havana. In addition to these six, JOHN HARRY WILLIAMS, Boston Top Hoodlum, has become active in gambling operations in Havana and is reported to have invested \$30,000.00 in a local Havana gambling casino <sup>Cuba Mass.</sup> that recently opened. No other top hoodlums are known to have acquired interests in Havana in the past month. (X)(u)

2. GAMBLING

In general, because the tourist season continues to be at an extremely low ebb, the number of persons frequenting gambling casinos in Havana is substantially reduced. In spite of this, two new casinos have opened their doors in preparation for the forthcoming winter season. These casinos are located in the Hotels Plaza and St. Johns. JACK LANSKY, brother of the notorious hoodlum MEYER LANSKY, recently became the Manager of the gambling casino in the Hotel Havana Riviera in which MEYER LANSKY has a substantial interest. WILLIAM GUSTO BISCHOFF, FBI No. 1721507, who formerly operated the gambling casino in the Tropicana night club, recently purchased an interest in the gambling operation in the Hotel Capri casino from CHARLES FOURINE, Miami Top Hoodlum. BISCHOFF was replaced at the Tropicana by a Dallas gambler named LOU McWILLIE. (X)(u)

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3. TAKE

Few casinos in Havana are doing more than breaking even at the present time; however, this is a situation which almost all casino operators expect to exist at this time of year since tourism is normally at a standstill. They continue to look forward hopefully toward the winter months when all expect to do extremely well unless there is an outbreak of revolutionary activity in the Havana area. (u) (X)

4. POLICE TIE-UPS WITH ORGANIZED CRIME

Police officers continue to receive pay-offs from all known forms of criminal activity in Cuba. An informant of the Havana Office recently advised that Colonel ORLANDO RIEDRA NEGUERUELA, Head of the Cuban Department of Investigations, has amassed a fortune of between two and four million dollars from take on gambling operations in Havana. (X)(u) Cuba

Whenever arrests are made in Cuba involving stolen property, contraband, or narcotics, it is almost a foregone conclusion that the arresting officers will take a certain percentage of the property seized for their own use. A source has indicated that in this manner a Sergeant in charge of the Robbery Detail in the Cuban Department of Investigations has been able to amass approximately a quarter of a million dollars in a reasonably short period of time. (X)(u)

American hoodlums and gamblers having interests in Havana have evidenced little concern about the effect that a change (X)(u)

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of government might have on their operations. They indicate that they feel that most Cuban police officials historically have been dishonest and can be "bought." They feel that any new government will not want to "kill the goose that laid the golden egg" and will, therefore, for a price, provide protection and encouragement for them. Unfortunately this estimate is probably true since most high-level police positions in Cuba are political appointments and individuals occupying these positions are solely interested in lining their own pockets as rapidly as possible before a change in government occurs. (X) (u)

6. OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Prostitutes, receivers of stolen property, and narcotics peddlers continue to operate freely in Havana, rarely running into difficulty with the police unless they fail to make their pay-offs. Recent inquiry by the Legal Attache, Havana indicates that, for example, almost every jewelry house in the Havana area has little hesitation about buying stolen property or property of at least dubious origin. This situation is directly attributable to the unusual moral principles of the Cuban people. Generally Cubans, even of high social and economic standards, have little hesitation about buying property, which is obviously stolen, because of the low price at which it is offered. They consider this (u) (X)

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (66-6200-65)

DATE: December 1, 1958

FROM : Legat, Havana (109-54)

58590

SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA

ReBulet. May 7, 1956, to Legat, Paris, entitled "ESPIONAGE AND FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE MATTERS" (Bufile 66-6200-65). Also reference is made to Legat, Havana, letter dated May 28, 1958.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

During the past six months the political fortunes of President FULGENCIO BATISTA y ZALDIVAR have deteriorated. Rebel groups of which the principal one is led by FIDEL CASTRO RUZ now almost completely dominate the eastern province of Cuba, namely, Oriente, and are forces to contend with in the provinces of Camaguey and Las Villas. The Cuban Army has had very little success in any skirmishes in which it has engaged the rebel forces.

Although elections were held on November 3, 1958, the Cuban people were apathetic toward exercising their right to vote and the elections themselves were boycotted by rebel groups and rebel sympathizers. The BATISTA backed presidential candidate, RIVERO AGUERO, was an easy winner in the elections which were claimed to be fraudulent.

No one expects that the holding of such elections and the selection of RIVIRO AGUERO as president will lead to any solution of the Cuban problem.

Although the rebels have been unable to take and hold any major city in Cuba, they have been able to almost completely disrupt all communications in the provinces of Camaguey and Oriente. This complete disruption of communication lines has led to a rapid deterioration of the economic condition in Cuba. The main financial backbone of Cuban economy is sugar and this crop is mostly harvested in the provinces of Camaguey and Oriente. Due to lack of transportation and rebel control of these areas, there is little hope that the coming sugar crop will be able to be fully harvested.

Bureau

Havana

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In the winter and spring of 1958 there were many bombings and acts of terrorism in the Havana area by supposedly rebel sympathizers. These ceased when the Cuban police authorities took very drastic measures of inflicting death on sympathizers whom they had in their possession. Also public opinion did not support such rebel activities inasmuch as often innocent persons were killed.

#### ATTITUDE OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES

The present Government of Cuba is pro-United States in its sympathies and outspokenly anti-Communist. It will be recalled that it was when BATISTA assumed power in March, 1952, by a coup d'etat that Cuba broke diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. On the international scene the Cuban Government backs the anti-Communist policies of the United States. The Cuban people are essentially pro-American mainly because of the help which it received from the United States in securing its independence from Spain and also because of close business ties with the United States.

The Cuban Government, however, does complain concerning the "nonintervention" policies of the United States, stating that through such policies it is unable to secure the arms it needs to put down the rebel insurrection.

Routing Slip  
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-56)

Date 11/26/58

To

☒ Director

FILE #

Att. ~~FOREIGN~~ LIAISON DESK

☐ SAC

Title

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign ..... Reassign .....

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline .....

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Open Case

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials .....

to

☐ Submit new charge-out

☐ Submit report by .....

☐ Type

EMBASSY WEEKA # 48, 11/25/58

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-17-99 BY 60261NLS/BCE/PR

SAC

LEGAT

HAVANA

☐ See reverse side

Office

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File & Serial Number

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109-12-210-355

LEWIS J. McWILLIE

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